

Testimony
Submitted to the
Education Committee
March 9, 2009
SENATE BILL NO. 830 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EDUCATION

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, and Representative Fleishmann and Members of the Education Committee. My name is Alex Whyte and I live in Canton. I am 13 and I am a full-day 8th grade student at the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science. I am here to testify about proposed Senate Bill 830 – Concerning the Governor's Recommendations Regarding Education

GHAMAS has changed my life. The teachers are warm and welcoming; they care for us not just as students, but as people. My needs were not being met at my old school. I've always loved math and science, but was not being challenged in those subjects. I now have the opportunity to reach my fullest potential. Someday I want to be a scientist and work for NASA. I have high aspirations and my hometown school doesn't offer the advanced classes and opportunities that GHAMAS offers. I am confident that GHAMAS will prepare me for a major in aerospace, hopefully at MIT. Maybe there is life on another planet and I want to help discover it. My mother always said I have stars in my eyes, I guess I do. Unlike my home school, GHAMAS helps me see what my dreams are made of.

Magnet schools draw on many communities; GHAMAS and the Arts Academy in particular have about 50 districts in the loop. Students from all over have a chance to meet other kids who share similar passions. Kids from both academies are all interested in achieving their goals and are dedicated to what they do. All the students in the CREC magnet schools, whether it's their art form or academic excellence, have great passion for their field. The idea of magnet schools that are able to focus on certain subjects is great! When I received an application in the mail for the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science, I was thrilled. After going to the open house, I was even more convinced to attend. Though the hours are long, I get up at 4:30am, catch my bus at 5:30am, and get home after 6pm every night, I love it. I even hate being sick and missing school, not because of the work I'll come back to, but because I love coming to school every day. I absolutely love this school! There is no way that anyone who wants to come shouldn't have the same chance as anyone else. Thank you for listening. The chance to speak before you today is just one more opportunity attending a magnet school has given me.